

Department of Commerce Growth Management Services Planner's Update

A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

NOVEMBER 2011 – ISSUE 50

Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe.

Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.



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To subscribe to this newsletter
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QUICK LINKS

www.commerce.wa.gov/growth
www.washington-apa.org
www.smartgrowth.org
www.planningpaw.org
www.mrsc.org

1. OFM 2012 GMA Population Forecast Plan and Timeline

Pursuant to RCW 43.62.035, the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) is required to update GMA county population projections in 2012.

The preliminary timetable for this update is as follows:

- In October and November 2011, OFM will evaluate its 2007 GMA forecasts.
- In December and January 2012, OFM will develop new or refine existing forecast assumptions and county control numbers in collaboration with county GMA planners and stakeholders.
- The official review of 2012 GMA forecasts will take place in February 2012. Counties will have two weeks to submit comments and feedback.
- The final 2010 GMA forecasts are planned to be released by March 31, 2012.

OFM will post online all the evaluation material, documentation, and review packets in compliance with Paper Reduction Act (SHB 2287) at: <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/projections12/default.asp>. To be put on the announcement email list, please contact Rachel Hughes, OFM Forecast Administrative Assistant, at 360.902.0599 or ofm.forecasting@ofm.wa.gov.

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2. Attend the Short Course on Local Planning Online

The Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce), the Planning Association of Washington (PAW) and the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA) are pleased to announce that the Short Course on Local Planning Program has entered a new era! The popular land-use training, taken to Washington communities continuously for almost forty years, has been released in video format, and now anyone can attend the Short Course - with the click of a mouse.

Topics covered in the new online Basic Short Course include the legal basis of planning in Washington, comprehensive planning and implementation, planning roles and citizen participation. A growing menu of Short Course videos on specific planning topics is also planned in the future.

A year-long collaborative effort has made the transition to online Short Courses possible, and we would like to thank the many partners who helped make it possible. Western Washington University (WWU) Assistant Professor Nicholas Zaferatos recognized the value of making the course available online for his Huxley School of the Environment planning students. The City of Marysville hosted the selected course in early 2011; WWU Digital Video Services Manager Robert Clark filmed and produced the video.

The video Short Course is now available at [Land Use Planning in Washington State - Online Education on Planning](#).

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3. WSDOT SEPA Distribution Contacts

Staff at the WA Department of Transportation (WSDOT) asked Commerce to share the correct WSDOT contacts for notices sent of actions under the State

Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Sending your notices to these contacts at WSDOT will make sure your notices receive attention quicker at WSDOT. A list of WSDOT SEPA document reviewers can be found on Ecology's website. WSDOT will keep that list updated as changes occur at WSDOT. Please use the WSDOT contact names from Ecology's website when you mail documents to WSDOT to ensure documents you submit for review make it to the right contact in a timely manner. The link to Ecology's SEPA distribution list is:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/sepacont.html>

WSDOT's map of SEPA Reviewers can be found under the "State Officials" list on Ecology's website.

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4. National APA – AICP Community Planning Assistance Teams

The American Planning Association (APA) is encouraging communities seeking planning assistance to submit applications to the Community Planning Assistance Teams initiative now through December 13, 2011. You can find the application for assistance and additional information including 'Frequently Asked Questions' on APA's website: <http://planning.org/communityassistance/teams/> or contact CPAT@planning.org for additional information.

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5. Technical Assistance Available from Local Government Commission

The Local Government Commission (LGC) is now accepting applications from communities interested in receiving technical assistance to implement sustainable and smart growth development programs. This targeted technical assistance (which takes the form of one- to two-day workshops) will provide 6 to 12 communities around the country with tools and improved capacity to achieve their livability, smart growth, and sustainability goals. The deadline for [online applications](#) is **November 22, 2011, at 5:00 PST.**

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